



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **DEQ Water Permits Division Leads EPA Region 6 in Water Permit Processing**

**BATON ROUGE** – According to monthly reports from EPA Region 6, the Water Permits Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has finalized and issued more priority, water discharge permits (non-tribal) under State Authority than any other state in EPA Region 6 during Fiscal Year 2010.

From May 2009 to October 2010, DEQ saw a 75 percent reduction in the backlog of Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permits that were expired for more than 10 years.

For Fiscal Year 2010, DEQ exceeded the EPA Region 6 standard for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issuance by 3 percent, while also having the highest percentage of major and minor permit renewals within EPA Region 6. Region 6 is comprised of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana.

“The Water Permits Division has worked tirelessly to ensure that our permits for stormwater and non-stormwater point source dischargers are reviewed, processed and issued in the most timely and efficient manner possible. Our great staff produced the highest results overall this past year, and we look forward to the challenges of Fiscal Year 2011,” said Mitch Mitchell, Administrator of DEQ’s Water Permits Division. “Currently, we are at 100 percent attainment of EPA’s annual goal for processing stormwater permits, and tied for the highest rate in the region.”

Based on an activity report from EPA Region 6, dated Oct. 1, 2010, DEQ’s Water Permits Division has met or exceeded the productivity rates of all other states within the region for Fiscal Year 2010. This means that DEQ’s Water Permits Division finished in first place in EPA Region 6 for the processing and issuance of major, minor individual and general water permits in 2009-2010.